

SCANDIUZZI, Réne 2008 *Les Tambourets: un gisement châtelperronien de plein air, au seuil des Petites Pyrénées, Etude de l'industrie lithique. Fouilles H. M. Bricker, 1973, 1975, 1980. Couladère, Haute-Garonne*). Mémoire de Master II, Université de Toulouse II le Mirail.

Abstract

The excavations of H. Bricker at Les Tambourets, a large open-air site located on the threshold of the Petites-Pyrénées within a few kilometers of abundant flint sources, produced a good sample of a Châtelperronian industry. The present study describes the lithic assemblage using techno-typological and economic techniques of analysis. Emphasis is on the specification of the reduction sequences (*chaînes opératoires*) at a site located very close to the raw material sources. The lithic industry of Les Tambourets is based in part on the production of subrectilinear blades from prismatic nuclei; such objects were used to manufacture Châtelperron points. A second production sequence produced thick, nonstandardized flakes, which were carefully retouched into scrapers. It is primarily these scrapers that suggest that domestic activities took place at the site, whereas many of the blades were probably removed from the site and used elsewhere. The present study supports the conclusion of H. Bricker that the Tambourets industry is an evolved Chatelperronian, and it constitutes a reference series for the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic in the south of France.